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us at the dépôt on Cooper Creek. If I had known that there was to have been a dépôt there, I would have gladly gone to it from the Thomson River. Now I intend proceeding down the river to Menindie, where I purpose, if necessary, to take the most advisable mode of letting Mr. Howitt know of our return from the Gulf of Carpentaria.

There is a camel on this run, which I will endeavour to get and take to Menindie.

Mr. Bourne, who is a good bushman and a good judge of country, has read this letter, and does not think that I have given a too favourable account of the country along our route from the Gulf of Carpentaria.

3. *Extract of a Letter from JOHN KENT, Esq., to Sir RODERICK MURCHISON, dated Brisbane, Queensland, 17th August, 1862.*

I HAVE sent two tracings, showing Mr. F. Walker's route from the head of the Barcoo to the Gulf of Carpentaria; and as it is the first reliable information given of this portion of the north-eastern interior of New Holland, will prove interesting. It shows conclusively that it is not "all barren from Dan to Beersheba," and proves that if the interior be regarded as a plain, that its greatest elevation would be found at its north-eastern angle. The tropical rains must send down large quantities of water during the north-west monsoon from the nucleus on the granitic range in 19° S., 144° E.; and so long as the interior preserves the character of an elevated table-land, the streams would be perennial. I think there can now be little difficulty in explaining the water-worn appearances on Sturt's desert.

The recent explorations of Burke and Walker prove that between the meridian 138° , to the eastern coast, and south to the Barcoo, is included the most valuable portion of the interior of Australia. For its development, the immigration of Indian coolie labour is essential, and this object will be promoted by establishing a steam-route to Singapore (linking on with the Calcutta and Ceylon line) through Torres Straits; and as the attention of the great cotton interests of Manchester and Paisley is now directed to Queensland, it is much to be desired that they will forward the views of a company recently formed here for placing a line of steamers on that route.

The discovery of auriferous fields near Gladstone, and the Peakdowns of Leichhardt, show that the riches of the Australian Cordilleras are not confined to the southern and central portion; while the recently proved existence of many thousands of red oxide of copper on the surface, near the latter locality, indicate the extent of our mineral wealth.

I have lately drawn the attention of the Rev. W. B. Clarke to the fact that the eastern coast of New Holland is rising at the rate, say, of an inch per annum, as ascertained by the height of rocks in the Brisbane, above tide-levels, through a period of twenty years; and he assures me that to the south the same result has been inferred, though the observations have not extended through so long a period.

4. *Partial Ascent of Um Shaumur in the Peninsula of Sinai in 1857.* By the Rev. FREDERICK HOWLETT.

MR. HOWLETT has communicated to the Society a coloured sketch of Um Shaumur, taken on the occasion of an attempted ascent to its highest peak. The following are the particulars of the route taken by his party. They left the Convent of St. Catherine's on camel-back at 8⁴⁵ A.M., April 30, 1857, and, passing through the Wadys Sebayah, Rotik and Rufferab, gained the top